ADVANCES IN MATHEMATICS 27, 93 (1978)

Book Reviews

H. A. LINSTONE AND M. TUROFF, Eds., *The Delphi Method*, Addison–Wesley, 1975, 620 pp. Another brave attempt at developing forecasting techniques by mathematics allied with computers. This one seems more serious than its numerous competitors in a seller's market.

T. A. SPRINGER, *Invariant Theory*, Springer, 1977, 112 pp. The topics treated are very special and center around invariants of "small" groups, but the book is accessible and attractive and sets a good example for algebraists to imitate. More books like this and we might find out what is going on in other branches of algebra.

S. E. DREYFUS AND A. M. LAW, *The Art and Theory of Dynamic Programming*, Academic Press, 1977, 284 pp. A readable and valuable survey covering most aspects of this useful and much-discussed subject. Dynamic programming is an amazingly simple idea that has amply justified its existence—and its somewhat off-putting name.

P. MEDGYESSY, *Decomposition and Superpositions of Density Functions and Discrete Distributions*, Wiley, 1977, 309 pp. Study of useful but seldom-treated properties of probability distributions, centering around unimodality and the problem of recognizing the convolution of several probability distributions on the basis of the shapes of their graphs.

M. DAVIS, *Applied Non-standard Analysis*, Wiley, 1977, 181 pp. A concise, no-nonsense introduction to the subject for people who want to use it and do not want to be bothered by logical irrelevancies. No mention of differential equations, the application on which this subject will be made or broken.

G. E. P. BOX AND G. M. JENKINS, *Time-Series Analysis*, Holden–Day, 1976, 576 pp. Despite its apparent length, this book is probably the best introduction to time series to date. It does not disdain simple, clear introduction to pedestrian but useful concept, transfer functions for instance, and has an eye for genuine applications.

H. EXTON, *Multiple Hypergeometric Functions and Applications*, Wiley, 1976, 312 pp. Hypergeometric functions are one of the paradises of nineteenth-century mathematics that remain unknown to most mathematicians of our day. Hypergeometric functions of several variables are potentially of great interest, since they connect with just about everything in sight, and this is certainly not the last book to be written on the subject.

STUHLMANN-LAEISZ, *Kants Logik*, de Gruyter, 1976, 120 pp. More studies like this should be written about the logic actually used by individual philosophers, which usually differs markedly from the logic they preached or paid lip service to. What was for example the logic of Husserl? Heidegger? Wittgenstein?

W. V. QUINE, *Ontological Relativity*, Columbia University Press, 1966. When a philosopher writes well one can forgive him anything, even being an analytic philosopher.

GIAN-CARLO ROTA
Editor

Printed in Belgium

0001-8408/78/0271–0093$05.00/0